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OCT 9 - 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Edwards, Cora A. [mailto:Cora.Edwards@co.sullivan.ny.us]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 4:12 PM
To: Margaret Wiener
Cc: Rau, Alex G.; Samuelson, Scott B.; Fanslau, David P.; Vetter, Kitty M.; jeff.lieberson@mail.house.gov; susan_spear@gillibrand.senate.gov; Darcy at DVI; Cora Edwards; Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: 901 Auction - reply requested

Dear Margaret:

As a Sullivan County, NY Legislator, bringing Broadband and Mobile Telephony Access to un-served populations in our area is one of the top priorities for Public Safety, Economic Development and Infrastructure requirements.

It has come to my attention that there are no service providers in New York State participating in the upcoming FCC sponsored \$300M 901 Auction next week. It is my understanding that the Universal Service Fund was created for universal coverage, but now the monies that everyone pays into the fund are being used in a competitive process; in other words "Not-Universal" at all.

This state of affairs is unacceptable for areas like Sullivan County which have not met the eligibility criteria for previous rounds of competitive funding (such as the ARRA grants of 2009 and now the Connect America 2012 competitive grant program) due to low population density. While Sullivan County has a year-around population of 70,000+/- and a seasonal population of over 250,000+/-, the competitive nature of the funding sources has left us lagging behind our slightly more populated areas. "Universal" funding needs to become truly universal again.

Attached, you will find two letters we are distributing to New York State elected officials and US Congressional representatives about this unacceptable state of affairs. One letter is from the Sullivan County Legislators and the other is from the New York State Association of Counties Executive Director, Stephen Acquario. I hope you will take these letters under consideration and look at acceptable solutions as Pennsylvania (Alcatel Lucent/State of Pennsylvania **Public Safety: A Network for the Long Haul**) has done to meet the needs of broadband and mobile telephony access in the twenty-first century. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Cora Edwards
Sullivan County Legislator (District 6)
Direct line: 845.807.0438

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10/9/2012

Scott B. Samuelson, Chairman
Legislator, District One

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SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE
SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
100 NORTH STREET
PO BOX 5012
MONTICELLO, NY 12701

September 21, 2012

It has come to our attention as Sullivan County legislators that next week on September 28, 2012 the FCC will conduct a "901 Reverse Auction" in which unserved blocks, where there is no broadband and mobile telephony service (as identified on the FCC Map), will be auctioned off. Unfortunately, none of the service providers in New York State are listed as participating in this auction event.

This is bad for Sullivan County New York where many unserved areas need internet and mobile telephony access. It is both a public safety and economic development issue for rural areas of Sullivan County.

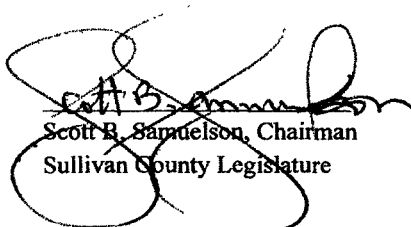
What we are asking is that if private service providers are not participating in this auction, then counties and municipalities are allowed to participate so that service provision is available for unserved areas.

Furthermore, the Universal Service Fund (USF) was created specifically to ensure that basic telephone service was available to all US residences and businesses. Telephone companies were compensated with this fund to cover the cost for areas that were not economically viable for them to provide services. Now the USF fund is being misallocated by making it only available through the FCC auction events and the Connect America Grant Program, essentially making it a competitive process and not providing universal coverage as originally intended.

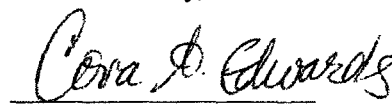
New York State is not well represented on the US Congressional Committee that oversees the FCC. Our elected officials need to make this a priority or New York State will not receive the federal funding needed to build out the broadband and wireless telephony infrastructure our communities so desperately need. We are calling on you to bring New York State into the twenty-first century and contact the FCC about this unfair situation immediately since the FCC auction event will determine the outcome in less than 4 business days.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

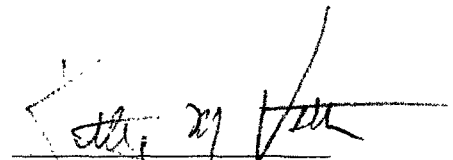
Sincerely,



Scott B. Samuelson, Chairman
Sullivan County Legislature



Cora A. Edwards
District Six Legislator



Kitty M. Vetter
District Three Legislator



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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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President: Hon. Edward A. Diana, Orange County

Executive Director: Stephen J. Acquario, Esq.

September 21, 2012

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write to draw your attention to conditions of the upcoming Auction 901 that will award universal service support through reverse competitive bidding. While NYSAC agrees with the goal of the auction – to put America on the path to universal broadband and advanced mobile coverage – we urge you to consider the impacts that the auction will have on rural, un-served and underserved areas in New York State.

We are concerned that there are few, if any, potential bidders for the 901 Auction that are likely to bid on any un-served blocks in New York State. With such a large amount of money - \$300M - coming out of the Universal Service Fund to pay for building out wireless infrastructure, NYSAC urges the FCC to take necessary steps to ensure that New York receives its fair share of this funding.

Furthermore, federal funding for broadband that has been made available in the last several years has been unavailable to many rural counties in New York that are in need of better broadband coverage. Eligibility criteria set forth in ARRA and the Connect America Project has been so tightly focused that it has been all but inaccessible for many rural counties in New York. NYSAC urges the FCC to consider this and create opportunities so that rural areas of New York State can have equal access to apply for funding to improve broadband coverage to residents of our State.

As the FCC proceeds with meeting the long-term goals for universal broadband coverage, we hope you will consider the importance of helping New York State achieve a wider deployment of mobile voice and broadband services.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Acquario
Executive Director